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Information technology — Character code structure and extension techniques

Technologies de l'information — Structure de code de caractères et techniques d'extension

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Contents

	Page
Section 1 - General	1
1 Scope	1
2 Conformance	2
2.1 Types of conformance	2
2.2 Conformance of information interchange	2
2.3 Conformance of devices	2
2.3.1 Device description	2
2.3.2 Originating devices	2
2.3.3 Receiving devices	2
3 Normative references	3
4 Definitions	3
4.1 bit combination	3
4.2 byte	3
4.3 character	3
4.4 coded-character-data-element (CC-data-element)	3
4.5 coded character set; code	3
4.6 code extension	3
4.7 code table	3
4.8 combining character	3
4.9 control character	3
4.10 control function	3
4.11 to designate	3
4.12 device	4
4.13 escape sequence	4
4.14 Final Byte	4
4.15 graphic character	4
4.16 graphic symbol	4
4.17 Intermediate Byte	4
4.18 to invoke	4
4.19 repertoire	4
4.20 to represent	4
4.21 user	4
5 Notation, code tables and names	4
5.1 Notation	4
5.2 Code tables	5
5.3 Names of characters	5
Section 2 - Character sets and codes	6
6 Characters and character sets	6

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6.1 Types of characters and character sets 6
6.2 Fixed coded characters 6

6.2.1 Character DELETE 6
6.2.2 Character ESCAPE 6
6.2.3 Character SPACE 6

6.3 Sets of coded graphic characters 6

6.3.1 Types of coded graphic character set 6
6.3.2 Contents of a coded graphic character set 9
6.3.3 Combination of graphic characters 9
6.3.4 Sources of coded graphic character sets 9

6.4 Sets of coded control functions 9

6.4.1 Types of coded control function set 9
6.4.2 Primary sets of coded control functions 10
6.4.3 Supplementary sets of coded control functions 10
6.4.4 Sources of coded control function sets 10

6.5 Coded single additional control functions 11

6.5.1 Standardized single control functions 11
6.5.2 Registered single control functions 11
6.5.3 Private control functions 11
6.5.4 Sources of coded single control functions 11

7 The elements of 8-bit and 7-bit codes 11

7.1 Summary of the elements 11
7.2 Character-set code elements 12
7.3 Invocation of character-set code elements 13
7.4 Coded code-identification functions 13
7.5 Unique coding of graphic characters 14

8 Structure of 8-bit codes 14

8.1 Code table layout for 8-bit codes 14
8.2 Elements and structure of the code 15
8.3 Invocation of graphic character sets by means of shift functions 15

8.3.1 LOCKING-SHIFT ZERO, .. ONE, .. TWO, and .. THREE 15
8.3.2 LOCKING SHIFT ONE RIGHT, .. TWO RIGHT , and .. THREE RIGHT 16
8.3.3 Shift status 16
8.3.4 Interactions of locking-shift functions 18

8.4 Invocation of single graphic characters by means of shift functions 18
8.5 Invocation of sets of control functions 18

8.5.1 Invocation of the C0 code element 18
8.5.2 Invocation of the C1 code element 18

9 Structure of 7-bit codes 19

9.1 Code table layout for 7-bit codes 19
9.2 Elements and structure of the code 19
9.3 Invocation of graphic character sets by means of shift functions 22

9.3.1 SHIFT-IN, SHIFT-OUT, LOCKING-SHIFT TWO, and LOCKING-SHIFT THREE 22
9.3.2 LOCKING SHIFT ONE RIGHT, TWO RIGHT, and THREE RIGHT 22
9.3.3 Shift status 22
9.3.4 Interactions of locking-shift functions 22

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9.4 Invocation of single graphic characters by means of shift functions 22
9.5 Invocation of sets of control functions 23

9.5.1 Invocation of the C0 code element 23
9.5.2 Invocation of the C1 code element 23

10 Versions and levels of implementation 23

10.1 Versions 23
10.2 Identification of code structure facilities and character sets 23
10.3 Levels of implementation 24

10.3.1 8-bit codes 24
10.3.2 Qualification of levels for 8-bit codes 24
10.3.3 7-bit codes 25

11 Transformation between 8-bit and 7-bit codes 25

11.1 Transformation from 8-bit to 7-bit codes 25
11.2 Transformation from 7-bit to 8-bit codes 26

Section 3 - Code identification and escape sequences 27

12 Code-identification functions 27

12.1 Purposes of code-identification functions 27
12.2 Relationship to escape sequences 27

13 Structure and use of escape sequences 27

13.1 Structure of escape sequences 27
13.2 Types of escape sequences 27

13.2.1 Indication of type 27
13.2.2 Escape Sequences of types nF 28
13.2.3 Escape Sequences of type 4F 29
13.2.4 Summary 30
13.2.5 Notation of escape sequences 30

13.3 Specific meanings of escape sequences 31

13.3.1 Registration of Final Bytes 31
13.3.2 Final Bytes specified in this International Standard 32
13.3.3 Private use 32

14 Designation of sets of graphic characters and control functions 32

14.1 Designation functions 32
14.2 Designation of sets of control functions (CZD, C1D) 33

14.2.1 Purpose 33
14.2.2 Designation of C0 33
14.2.3 Designation of C1 33

14.3 Designation of sets of graphic characters (GnDm and GnDMm) 33

14.3.1 Purpose 33
14.3.2 Specifications 34
14.3.3 Size indication for multiple-byte sets 35

14.4 Dynamically redefinable character sets (DRCS) 35

14.4.1 Purpose 35
14.4.2 Specification 35

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 2022:1994". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

14.5 Identification of revisions of registered character sets (IRR) 35

14.5.1 Purpose 35
14.5.2 Specification 35

15 Code announcement and switching 36

15.1 Summary of functions provided 36
15.2 Announcement of code structure facilities (ACS) 36

15.2.1 Purpose 36
15.2.2 Specification 36

15.3 Data Delimiter for this Coding Method (CMD) 40

15.3.1 Purpose 40
15.3.2 Specification 40

15.4 Designation of Other Coding Systems (DOCS) 40

15.4.1 Purpose 40
15.4.2 Specification 40

ANNEXES
A - External references to character repertoires and their coding 42
B - The ISO International register of coded character sets to be used with escape sequences 45
C - Main differences between the 3rd edition (1986) and the present edition of this International Standard 46
D - Bibliography 47

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation) and IEC (the International Electrical Commission) form the specialised system for world-wide standardisation. National Bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organisation to deal with particular fields of mutual interest. Other international organisations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75% of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 2022 was prepared by the European Association for the Standardization of Information and Communication Systems, ECMA, (as ECMA-35) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, in parallel with its approval by national bodies of ISO and IEC.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 2022:1986), of which it constitutes a technical revision (see also the introduction).

Annex A forms an integral part of this International Standard. Annexes B, C and D are for information only.

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Introduction

ECMA/TC1 participates very actively in the work of JTC1/SC2 (previously ISO/TC97/SC2) on code structure and code extension, and contributed numerous technical papers to SC2/WG1, the group entrusted with the preparation of ISO 2022, the International Standard for code extension techniques. ECMA published its first Standard ECMA-35 on the same subject in 1971. Three further editions in 1980, 1982 and 1985 reflected the progress achieved internationally, and the text of the 1985 edition was identical with that of the 1986 edition of ISO 2022.

The present edition of ISO/IEC 2022 is technically almost identical with the 1986 edition but is completely rearranged and rewritten to make it more convenient to use as a reference document.

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Information technology - Character code structure and extension techniques

Section 1 - General

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the structure of 8-bit codes and 7-bit codes which provide for the coding of character sets. The code elements used in the structure are common to both the 8-bit and 7-bit codes. The codes use a variety of techniques for extending the capabilities of elementary 8-bit and 7-bit codes. Greater emphasis is given to 8-bit codes in this edition of the Standard than in previous editions because they are now more widely used.

The use of common elements in the 8-bit and 7-bit code structure enables any specific conforming 8-bit code to be transformed into an equivalent 7-bit code, and vice versa, in a simple and direct fashion.

ISO/IEC 4873 conforms to the 8-bit code structure specified here, and ISO/IEC 646 conforms to the 7-bit code structure specified here.

Note - The coded character set specified in ISO/IEC 10646-1 has a different structure not in accordance with this International Standard.

The code structure facilities specified here include various means of extending the number of control functions and graphic characters available in a code. They also include techniques to construct and formalize the definition of specific codes, and to provide a coded identification of the structure and of the constituent elements of such specific codes.

Specific codes may also be identified by means of object identifiers in accordance with ISO 8824, Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1). The form of such object identifiers is specified in annex A.

Individual character sets and control functions intended for use with these 8-bit and 7-bit codes are assumed to be registered in the ISO International Register of Coded Character Sets to be Used with Escape Sequences, in accordance with ISO 2375 (see annex B). The register includes details to relate individual character sets and control functions with their coded representations, and also with the associated coded identifications of such character sets.

The principles established in this International Standard may be utilized to form supplementary code structure facilities. For example ISO/IEC 6429 has followed such a procedure to formulate some parameterized control functions.

The use of uniform code structure techniques for the 8-bit and 7-bit codes specified here has the advantage of:

- permitting uniform provision for code structure in the design of information processing systems,
- providing standardized methods of calling into use agreed sets of characters,
- allowing the interchange of data between environments that utilise 8-bit and 7-bit codes respectively,
- reducing the risk of conflict between systems required to inter-operate.

When two systems with different levels of implementation of code structure facilities are required to communicate with one another, they may do so using the code structure facilities that they have in common.

The codes specified here are designed to be used for data that is processed sequentially in a forward direction. Use of these codes in strings of data which are processed in some other way, or which are included in data formatted for fixed-length record processing, may have undesirable results or may require additional special treatment to ensure correct interpretation.

Note - Since the previous edition (1986) of this International Standard the text has been completely rearranged and rewritten to make the Standard more convenient to use as a reference document. It is now arranged in three main sections as follows:

1 General

2 Character Sets and Codes

3 Code Identification and Escape Sequences